



**QUALITY: AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH
ANALYSIS AND REPORTING
(QUASAR)
TECHNICAL MANUAL**

Version 3.0

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Introduction

Quality: Audiology and Speech Analysis and Reporting (QUASAR) is a VISTA software package written for the Audiology and Speech Pathology Service. QUASAR is used to enter, edit, and retrieve data for each episode of care. It provides transmission of visit data to the Patient Care Encounter (PCE) program in order to incorporate QUASAR Visit Data in ACRP Workload Reporting. It produces a variety of reports useful to local managers, medical center management, and central planners. QUASAR also contains a VA FileMan function that permits users to generate customized reports using data from QUASAR's A&SP Clinic Visit file (#509850.6) or A&SP Patient file (#509850.2). QUASAR produces an automated Cost Distribution RCS 10-0141 Report (CDR) and has an option for generating and processing audiology compensation and pension examinations through an agreement with the Automated Medical Information Exchange (AMIE) package.

Implementation and Maintenance

Implementation

Implementation Checklist (Virgin Installations Only)

- ☐ Assign menu options to users.
- ☐ Make sure all A&SP clinics are in the VISTA Hospital Location file (# 44) and that each is associated with a Division.
- ☐ Assign the ACKQ ADHOC key to those users who will be designing reports using the Tailor-Made A&SP Reports option.
- ☐ Add appropriate A&SP staff to the USR Class Membership file # 8930.3 and assign a User Class to each. After staff are added to the USR Class Membership file, add the same A&SP staff to the A&SP Staff file #509850.3. Also ensure that each A&SP staff member has an appropriate Person Class entry within the New Person file #200.
- ☐ Define site parameters using the A&SP Site Parameters option.
- ☐ (Optional) Use the Update Files per CO Directive to add diagnoses to the A&SP Diagnostic Condition file and procedures to the A&SP Procedure Code file.
- ☐ (Optional) Apply local cost amounts to each procedure using the Enter Cost Information Procedure option. You may use locally developed cost data, DSS product costs, community fees, insurance reasonable rates, or Medicare reasonable rates.

Implementation Checklist (Installations over V. 2.0)

- ☐ Define site parameters using the A&SP Site Parameters option.
- ☐ Make sure each entry in the A&SP Staff file #509850.3 also has an appropriate Person Class entry within the New Person file #200.
- ☐ (Optional) Use the Update Files per CO Directive to make any required changes to the A&SP Diagnostic Condition file and the A&SP Procedure Code file.
- ☐ (Optional) Apply local cost amounts to each procedure using the Enter Cost Information Procedure option.

Menu Option Assignment

A&SP Supervisor Menu

The A&SP Supervisor Menu [ACKQAS SUPER] option is assigned to supervisory personnel. It is the main menu and contains options for setting up and maintaining the QUASAR package, entering clinic visit data, generating management reports, and adequating Compensation and Pension (C&P) exams.

Audiology & Speech Visit Tracking System

The Audiology & Speech Visit Tracking System [ACKQAS MASTER] menu option is assigned to personnel who will be entering clinic visit data and generating reports.

A&SP Reports

The A&SP Reports [ACKQAS REPORTS] menu contains only report options. This menu can be assigned to users who may not enter or modify any of the data, but need to be able to see the data generated by these reports.

Key Assignment

Give the **ACKQ ADHOC** key to all users who will be creating/designing reports using the option Tailor-Made A&SP Reports. This option uses VA FileMan to sort and print data from the A&SP Clinic Visit (#509850.6) and A&SP Patient (#509850.2) files.

Maintenance

File Maintenance

Maintenance of the files is through the Set Up/Maintenance menu. For use of this menu, please refer to the QUASAR user manual.

Resource Requirements

The total size of the ACKQ* routines is approximately 360 K bytes. The package namespace is ACKQ.

The CDR ACCOUNT (#509850), A&SP DIAGNOSTIC CONDITION (#509850.1), and A&SP PROCEDURE CODE (#509850.4) files are static, and require approximately 17, 5, and 9 K bytes respectively. The A&SP STAFF file (#509850.3) is reasonably static and requires about 1 K. The A&SP PROCEDURE MODIFIER file (#509850.5) is reasonably static and requires about 1 K. There are three dynamic files. A&SP PATIENT file (#509850.2) requires approximately .5 K per Audiology and Speech Pathology clinic patient. The A&SP CLINIC VISIT file (#509850.6) requires

approximately .75 K per clinic visit. Using clinic workload data from the Chief, Audiology & Speech Pathology Service, some idea of file size and rate of growth can be calculated.

Files

| <u>File #</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Contents</u> |
|---------------|---------------------------|--|
| 509850 | CDR Account | Contains all of the cost accounts used to calculate and print the Cost Distribution Report for Audiology and Speech Pathology. Each patient visit contains a pointer to one of these accounts for distribution of workload to appropriate cost accounts. |
| 509850.1 | A&SP Diagnostic Condition | Contains pointers to a small subset of ICD-9CM codes which pertain to Audiology and Speech Pathology. Entries in this file are pointed to by the Diagnostic Code field in the A&SP Clinic Visit file. |
| 509850.2 | A&SP Patient | Contains identifying, demographic, and other clinical information for all patients seen in the Audiology and Speech Pathology clinics. The entries in this file are pointers to the Patient file #2. |
| 509850.3 | A&SP Staff | Contains the names of all A&SP providers and students. Information in the file includes the staff person's name, activation and inactivation dates, status (i.e., clinician, fee basis, other provider, or student) and an ID number for sites that may want to enter provider by code number. Entries in this file point to the New Person file #200 and the USR Class Membership file # 8930.3. Staff members must be present in both files before they can be added to the A&SP Staff file. Staff members must also have an appropriate Person Class entry within the New Person file #200. |
| 509850.4 | A&SP Procedure Code | Contains pointers to a small subset of CPT-4 codes which pertain to Audiology and Speech Pathology. Entries in this file are pointed to by the Procedure Code field in the A&SP Clinic Visit file. Before using the QUASAR package, the supervisor should enter cost data for each procedure code in the A&SP Procedure Code file if the site wants to take advantage of the procedure cost functionality. |
| 509850.5 | A&SP Procedure Modifier | Contains a list of the CPT and HCPCS modifiers that are appropriate to Audiology and Speech Pathology. This file restricts the selection of Modifiers when entering CPT procedures with the |

| | | |
|----------|----------------------|--|
| | | New Clinic Visits and Edit an Existing Visit options. |
| 509850.6 | A&SP Clinic Visit | Contains all data specific to each patient encounter. This includes the patient, the providers and students involved, the diagnostic and procedure codes, the date and time of the visit, and the CDR cost account. |
| 509850.7 | A&SP Workload | Contains each month's capitation statistics. Data in this file are used to compile statistics which includes a display of total and unique visits by zip code, procedure, and disease codes for any specified month. |
| 509850.8 | A&SP Site Parameters | Contains site specific data used by the QUASAR package. There should be only one site entry in this file and at least one division defined. |

Data in all QUASAR files should not be altered through the use of VA FileMan; input should take place only through the QUASAR menu options.

Routines

QUASAR routines are namespaced ACKQ. To obtain a list of the routines use the First Line Routine Print option to obtain a list of the routines exported with the package.

Select Routine Tools Option: **First Line Routine Print**

PRINTS FIRST LINES

```
routine(s) ?    >    ACKQ*  
searching directory ...  
routine(s) ?    >    <RET>
```

```
(A)lpha, (D)ate ,(P)atched, OR (S)ize ORDER: A// <RET>  
Include line 2? NO// <RET>  
DEVICE: HOME// (Enter a device)
```

Exported Options

QUASAR options are namespaced ACKQ.

Archiving and Purging

At present, the QUASAR package does not provide for the archiving or purging of its data.

Callable Routines

The QUASAR routines have not been designed to be called outside of the package.

External Relations

This package was created using Kernel V. 8.0 and VA FileMan V. 21. The QUASAR V. 3.0 package requires the following external packages and files:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Minimum Version Needed</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Kernel | 8.0 |
| Va FileMan | 21.0 |
| MailMan | 7.1 |
| PIMS | 5.3 |
| Automated Med Info Exchange | 2.7 |
| PCE Patient Care Encounter | 1.0 |

QUASAR also uses the following files:

New Person file #200
ICD Diagnosis file #80
CPT Procedure file #81
CPT Modifier file #81.3
USR Class Membership file #8930.3
DSS Unit file #724

Integration Agreements

Integration agreements for QUASAR are listed on the Data Base Administrator (DBA) menu on FORUM. Use the Integration Agreements Menu option to obtain up-to-date information.

Active QUASAR Subscribing Agreements

Select Integration Agreements Menu Option: **SUB**scriber Package Menu

- 1 Print ACTIVE by Subscribing Package
- 2 Print ALL by Subscribing Package

Select Subscriber Package Menu Option: **1** Print ACTIVE by Subscribing Package
START WITH SUBSCRIBING PACKAGE: FIRST// **QUASAR**
GO TO SUBSCRIBING PACKAGE: LAST// **QUASAR**
DEVICE: (Enter a device)

Active QUASAR Custodial Agreements

Select Integration Agreements Menu Option: **8** Custodial Package Menu

- 1 ACTIVE by Custodial Package
- 2 Print ALL by Custodial Package
- 3 Supported References Print All

Select Custodial Package Menu Option: **1** ACTIVE by Custodial Package
Select PACKAGE NAME: **QUASAR** ACKQ
DEVICE: HOME// (Enter a device)

Internal Relations

All of the QUASAR package options can function independently. All menus can stand alone.

Package-wide Variables

There are no QUASAR package-wide variables.

Package Security

1. Security Management.

Data in all QUASAR files **should not** be altered through the use of VA FileMan; input should take place **only** through the QUASAR menu options. Per VHA Directive 10-93-142, all QUASAR file definitions **should not** be modified.

The QUASAR package uses the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) coding system which is an American Medical Association (AMA) copyrighted product. Its use is governed by the terms of the agreement between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the AMA.

No additional licenses are necessary to run the software.

Confidentiality of staff and patient data and the monitoring of this confidentiality is no different than with any other paper reference.

2. Security Features:

a. Mail Groups and Alerts.

There are no mail groups or alerts for the users of this package.

b. Remote Systems.

The application does not transmit data to any remote system/facility database.

c. Archiving/Purging.

Refer to [Archiving and Purging](#), in this manual.

d. Contingency Planning.

It is the responsibility of the using service to develop a local contingency plan to be used in the event of application problems.

e. Interfacing.

No specialized (non VA) interfaces are used or required by the application.

f. Electronic Signatures.

QUASAR has an option for generating and processing audiology compensation and pension examinations through an agreement with the Automated Medical Information Exchange (AMIE) package. If this functionality is used at your facility, A&SP staff involved must enter an electronic signature. An electronic signature can be established using the *Edit Electronic Signature Code* option in the *User's Toolbox* menu.

g. Menus.

There are no options of special note for the Information Security Officers (ISO's) to view.

h. Security Keys.

There is one locked option on the QUASAR menu. The *Tailor-Made A&SP Reports* option is locked with the ACKQ ADHOC security key. Allocation of this key is at the discretion of the IRM chief.

i. File Security

| <u>Number</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Global Name</u> | <u>DD</u> | <u>RD</u> | <u>WR</u> | <u>DEL</u> | <u>LAY</u> | <u>AUDIT</u> |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 509850 | CDR Account | ^ACKQ(509850 , | @ | | @ | @ | @ | @ |
| 509850.1 | A&SP Diagnostic Condition | ^ACKQ(509850 , | @ | | @ | @ | @ | @ |
| 509850.2 | A&SP Patient | ^ACKQ(509850 , | @ | | @ | @ | @ | @ |
| 509850.3 | A&SP Staff | ^ACKQ(509850 , | @ | | @ | @ | @ | @ |
| 509850.4 | A&SP Procedure Code | ^ACKQ(509850 , | @ | | @ | @ | @ | @ |
| 509850.5 | A&SP Procedure Modifier | ^ACKQ(509850 , | @ | | @ | @ | @ | @ |
| 509850.6 | A&SP Clinic Visit | ^ACKQ(509850 , | @ | | @ | @ | @ | @ |
| 509850.7 | A&SP Workload | ^ACKQ(509850 , | @ | @ | @ | @ | @ | @ |
| 509850.8 | A&SP Site Parameters | ^ACKQ(509850 , | @ | | @ | @ | @ | @ |

j. References.

There are no special reference materials for this package.

k. Official Policies.

Per VHA Directive 10-93-142 regarding security of software that reports data to an external data base, the QUASAR routines may not be modified.

According to the same directive, the QUASAR Data Dictionaries may not be modified. The file descriptions of these files are so noted. QUASAR files may only be updated through distributed options.

Glossary

| | |
|-----------|---|
| A&SP | Audiology and Speech Pathology. |
| CDR | Cost Distribution Report. |
| C&P | Compensation and Pension. |
| CPT Codes | Codes listed in the <i>Physicians Current Procedural Terminology Handbook</i> . |
| DSS | Decision Support System. |
| HCFA | Health Care Financing Administration. |
| HCPCS | HCFA Common Procedure Coding System. |
| ICD-9-CM | <i>International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Edition, with Clinical Modifications</i> . |
| PCE | Patient Care Encounter. |
| QUASAR | Quality: Audiology and Speech Analysis and Reporting. |
| VACO | Veterans Affairs Central Office. |
| VARO | Veterans Affairs Regional Office. |
| VHA | Veterans Health Administration. |
| VISTA | Veterans Health Information System and Technology Architecture. |